

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-10 /126 W

----- 100983

R 140815Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL SAPPORO
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
SECSTATE WASHDC 0404
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SAPPORO 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, UR JA

SUBJ: SAKHALIN GAS EXPLORATION

REF: TOKYO 13409

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, SAKHALIN NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SNGDEC) (REFTEL) IS HAVING DIFFICULTY ATTRACTING HOKKAIDO COMPANIES WILLING TO INVEST IN SAKHALIN OIL DEVELOPMENT CORP. DESPITE MODEST SIZE OF INVESTMENT, ONLY TWENTY COMPANIES HAVE THUS FAR AGREED TO PARTICIPATE COMPARED TO THIRTY ENVISAGED BY SNGDC. RELUCTANCE OF LOCAL BUSINESSMENTO INVEST IN PROJECT REPORTEDLY STEMS FROM THIER FEELING THAT SOVIET UNION CANNOT BE REFLIED UPON AS A LONGTERM SUPPLIER OF NATURAL GAS TO JAPAN, AND THAT THE TEN YEARS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP SAHKALIN'S ATURAL GAS DEPOSITS IS TOO LONG. IN ADDITION, A SIZEABLE SEGMENT OF HOKKAIDO'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONSIDERS THE DEVELOPMENT AND POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF ALASKA CRUDE OIL TO OFFER A MORE ATTRACTIVE FIELD FOR INVESTMENT.

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2. IF THE SAKHALIN PROJECT MATERIALIZES, THE GAS IS TO BE
PIPED UNDER THE SOYA STRAIT AND ACROSS HOKKAIDO TO MURORAN,
AN INDUSTRIAL PORT CITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE IALAND.
THREE ALTERNATE ROUTES PART OF THE ISLAND. THREE ALTERNATE
ROUTES FOR THE TRANS-HOKKAIDO SECTION OF THE PROPOSED PIPELINE ARE
CORRENTLY UNDER STUDY.
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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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